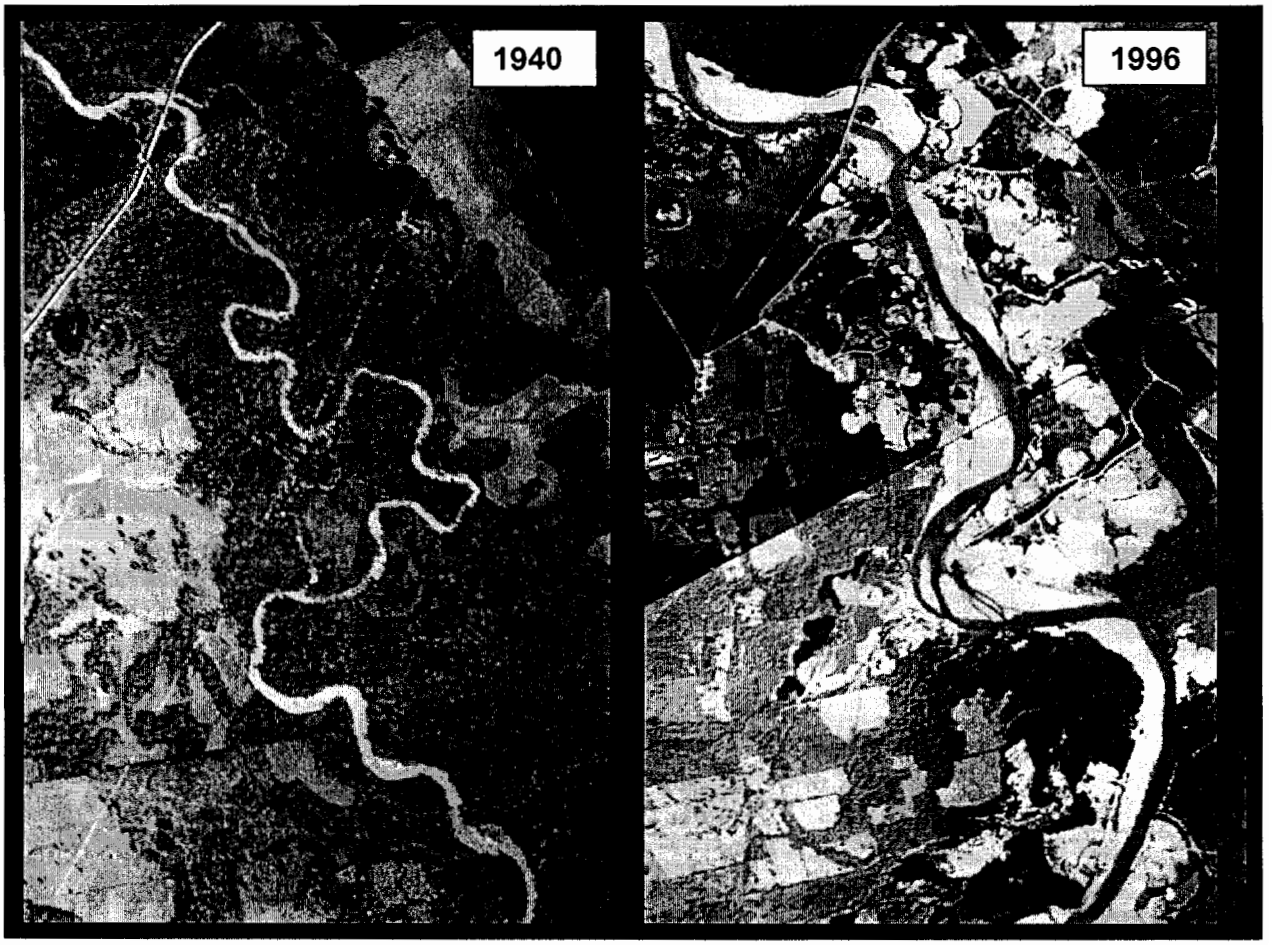
PEER REVIEW

Amite River and Tributaries Ecosystem Restoration, LA



May, 15, 2007

The project management plan (PMP) for *Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, Ecosystem Restoration* is a plan of study that is used to define and manage the development and conduct of this feasibility study undertaken by the New Orleans District (NOD). This PMP is developed to be consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Business Process (PMBP), specifically ER 5-1-11. There are seven imperatives of the PMBP: 1) One project, one project delivery team (PDT), one project manager (PM), 2) Plan for success and keep commitments, 3) The PDT is responsible for the success of the project, 4) Measure quality with the goals and expectations of the PMP, 5) Manage all work with the PMBP, using corporate automated information systems, 6) Build effective communications into all activities and processes, and 7) Use best practices and seek continuous improvement.

The Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana – Ecosystem Restoration is being conducted in response to a resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, adopted July 23, 1998 which reads as follows:

> "Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, published as House Document 419, 84th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of environmental restoration and protection, water quality, and sediment control, recreation, and the avoidance or minimization of undesirable impacts resulting from urbanization and other present and future watershed activities."

The study area includes the 2,200 square-mile Amite River drainage basin in southeastern Louisiana and southwestern Mississippi. The basin includes all or portions of eight parishes in Louisiana and four counties in Mississippi. A study area map is provided, Plate 1. The study area is within the sixth Congressional District of Louisiana (Representative Richard Baker - R) and the fourth Congressional District of Mississippi (Representative Ronnie Shows - D).

The Amite River and its tributaries flow from Mississippi through the western "Florida" parishes of southeast Louisiana and into Lake Maurepas, an oligohaline lake that drains into Lake Pontchartrain. The major rivers in the study area are the Amite River and the Comite River. The Amite River is used for recreation, propagation of fish and wildlife, and to a lesser extent, for water supply, navigation, and waste disposal. The Amite River has a drainage area of about 2,200 square miles and an average flow of about 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Denham Springs. The Comite River is its principal tributary and has a drainage area of 334 square miles and an average flow of 457 cfs near Comite, Louisiana. Other major tributaries include the East Fork Amite River, West Fork Amite River, Beaver Creek, Darling Creek, Sandy Creek, Clay Cut Bayou, Jones Creek, and Colyell Creek. A

section of the Amite River in East Feliciana Parish, from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to Louisiana Highway 37 (LA 37) and a section of the Comite River in East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge Parishes, from LA Hwy. 10 to White Bayou, are included in Louisiana's Natural and Scenic Rivers System. The major urban areas in this watershed are Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, and Gonzales, which are situated along the lower third of the river.

The activities presented in this PMP will be completed to determine the feasibility of providing multipurpose benefits to mainly include ecosystem restoration and possibly flood damage reduction for the Amite River Watershed, Louisiana. The description of tasks and associated costs provided reflect the required efforts to complete feasibility scope designs and costs. The Project Manager is Jason P. McCrossen (504-862-1723) under the supervision of Rodney Greenup (504-862-2613). PDT members are listed below:

First	Last	Discipline	Phone Number	Office Symbol	Org. Code
Greenup	Rodney	Project Management	504-862-2613	PM-W	B2H4800
McCrossen	Jason	Project Management	504-862-1723	PM-W	B2H4800
Lisa Leonard	Lisa	Economics	504-862-1916	PM-AW	B2H4610
Daigle	Jeremy	Systems & Programming	504-862-2170	ED-S	B2L0500
Gannon	Brian	Project Engineering	504-862-2567	ED-SP	B2L0500
Clark	Erin	Real Estate	504-862-2183	RE-E	B220200
Gutierrez	Judith	Real Estate	504-862-2575	ED-C	B2L0700
TBD	TBD	Surveys	TBD	TBD	TBD
Obiol	Bonnie	Environmental	504-862-2280	PM-RS	B2H4710
Broussard	Reynold	H&H Branch	504-862-2428	ED-HD	B2L0200

The quality control plan (QCP) for the Amite River and Tributaries, Ecosystem Restoration, LA will be consistent to the MVN Quality Control Plan for Planning Studies and the MVN Quality Management Plan (www.intra.usace.army.mil/eng/eda/nodqmp6.doc). The QCP includes an ITR plan to ensure that quality products are developed during the course of the study by the MVN. The Level of ITR for this project will be Inter District/Regional. The Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) will be responsible for verifying that MVN's products meet the needs and expectations of the customer, and that competent technical resources are utilized throughout the design and review process. Policy review for this study will be performed at the Headquarters of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) and will insure that all applicable statutes have been applied with respect to cost sharing, project purpose, and budget criteria. All processes, quality control, quality assurance, and policy review should

complement each other, producing a seamless review process, which identifies and resolves technical and policy issues during the course of the study and not during the final study stages.

The QCP has been formulated to provide for a sound ITR process at the project study level that focuses on several objectives. Primarily, quality technical products will be produced through an effective and comprehensive single level technical review process throughout product development while verifying that functional, legal, safety, health and environmental requirements are satisfied. This review process will insure that a cost effective solution, while maintaining product requirements, is developed. Technical review will also act as a mechanism to avoid startovers and redesign efforts, and will assure accountability for the technical quality of the product.

Independent Technical Review. Technical review will consist of a single level study review and will be performed at MVN throughout the course of the study. Based upon cost, technical expertise, and current and projected workload, the technical review for the feasibility study will be conducted by in-house resources. The local sponsor and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also be involved in the review process by participating in PDT meetings. These and other agencies, such as EPA, USDA, etc., will also be invited to have a representative on the Technical Review Team.

Technical Review Team (TRT). The TRT will be established at the initial stages of the study and will be maintained to the maximum extent possible during the life of the study. At the initial study stages, the TRT will consist of one or more reviewers from each functional area within each discipline, and will consist of existing senior staff that perform other technical work but are not involved in the technical products under review. The TRT will be comprised of the same disciplines on the PDT, and will have experience in the type of analyses in which they are responsible for reviewing. In addition to those disciplines listed in Appendix A, the TRT will have representatives from the disciplines of contracting, construction, and operations. This will ensure that the recommended plans developed are consistent with these disciplines.

Each TRT member will be senior or equal in experience to the analyst or production person. The TRT will be responsible for verifying the following: 1) assumptions, 2) methods, procedures, and material used in analyses based on the level of analyses, 3) alternative evaluated is reasonable, 4) appropriateness of data used, and level of data obtained, 5) reasonableness of results, and 6) that products meet sponsor needs and are consistent with law and existing policy. The makeup of the TRT may be modified as the study progresses to match the review requirements.

ITR Meetings and Concurrence Points. The ITR will occur during the project with specific concurrence points. Much of this review can be accomplished via email, voice, file transfer, and automated information systems. A web-based review

process may be set up to provide the TRT with review packages, track comments and responses, and provide ITR records. Major concurrence points or major resolutions of issues may require meetings. All ITR verifications will occur prior to the release of data and/or final products to another office/division, but may include reviewers and PDT members from other functional areas. These records will either be kept in ProjectWise or in some other electronic based system, such as Dr. Checks.

Planning Center of Expertise (PCX). A Corps of Engineers PCX, other than the New Orleans District, will be responsible for verifying that the NOD's products meet the needs and expectations of the customer and that competent technical resources are utilized throughout the design and review process. Six PCX's exist throughout the Corps, each with their own primary business program. Review is assigned to the appropriate Corps PCX based on these business programs.

The Amite River and Tributaries, Ecosystem Restoration feasibility study falls under the PCX business program "Ecosystem Restoration" ITR for studies grouped in this program are performed in Vicksburg, MS under the supervision of Davis Vigh CEMVD-RB-T. The decision document has only a single purpose; therefore a Planning Advisory Board will not be needed to conduct the review. The Center may conduct the ITR themselves or manage the review conducted by others. If the PCX decides to manage the review from an outside source, these potential reviewers may include nominations from scientific or professional societies, if the Center so chooses.

Team Members. The amount of time it will take to conduct the ITR will depend on the Ecosystem Restoration PCX's workload and schedule. The number of reviewers participating in the ITR Team will also be determined at a later date by the PCX, but should include members with expertise in the following disciplines:

First	Last	Discipline	Phone Number	Office Symbol	Org. Code
TBD	TBD	Civil Engineering	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Cost Engineering	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Design Services	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Economics	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Environmental	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Geotechnical	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Hydraulics and Hydrology	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Real Estate	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Surveys Branch	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	Waterways	TBD	TBD	TBD

External Peer Review (EPR). This feasibility study does not meet the EPR criteria of EC 1105-2-408. The cost of this project is not expected to exceed $40 million and

therefore its magnitude is determined as low. The study will not contain precedent-setting methods or models, present conclusions that are likely to change prevailing practices, or contain a potential for failure or controversy. Therefore it will not be subject to the EPR process.

Quality Control Records. Quality control records for Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division and Engineering Division products will be maintained in an ITR Appendix, verified and signed by the TRT, and included in the Amite River and Tributaries, Ecosystem Restoration, LA feasibility report. The package will consist of review comments and a certification checklist. The review comments will summarize the major issues/comments from the ITR along with the response or resolution to each comment. An ITR checklist will also be included within the report as a means of documenting the ITR.

Public Comment. The public will have several opportunities to comment both on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as the draft feasibility report. Public scoping meetings will be held on 19, 20 June which will the first opportunity for public input. A complete scoping report will be drafted and will be given to the ITR team for the review of existing conditions. The public will also have a chance to comment once the draft EIS is completed. After public comment is complete for the draft EIS, and a final version is drafted, public comment will begin on the draft feasibility report. At all times during this process, public comment is given strong consideration by the PDT, local sponsor, and other agencies involved in the feasibility report as well as the ITR and peer review teams.

Schedule. ITR will begin following scoping meetings by the Memphis District. Existing conditions for the hydraulic model is complete and will be reviewed with environmental and economics to follow. ITR is scheduled to continue the life of the project with a seamless pattern and will be complete in September 2009, which will coincide with the completion of the feasibility report.